

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended so as to insert the term "anionic".

Removal of Double Patenting and Obviousness Rejections

Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Tanaka '253 (USP 6,239,253). Claims 7 and 8 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka '253.

The Office Action states that claims 7 and 8 previously failed to recite that the surfactants employed in the claimed methods were "anionic". Claims 7 and 8 have now been amended so as to recite that the surfactants are anionic. Thus, the basis for both of the above-noted rejections has been removed. Consequently, it is requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Allowable Claims

Claims 1, 3-6 and 9 have been indicated to be allowed. It is submitted for the reasons stated above that claims 7 and 8 have now also been placed into allowable form. Therefore, it is requested

that it be acknowledged that claims 1 and 3-9 are all now in allowable form.

Conclusion


It is submitted for the reasons stated above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should now be placed condition for allowance.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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